



# TORRANCE PRESS

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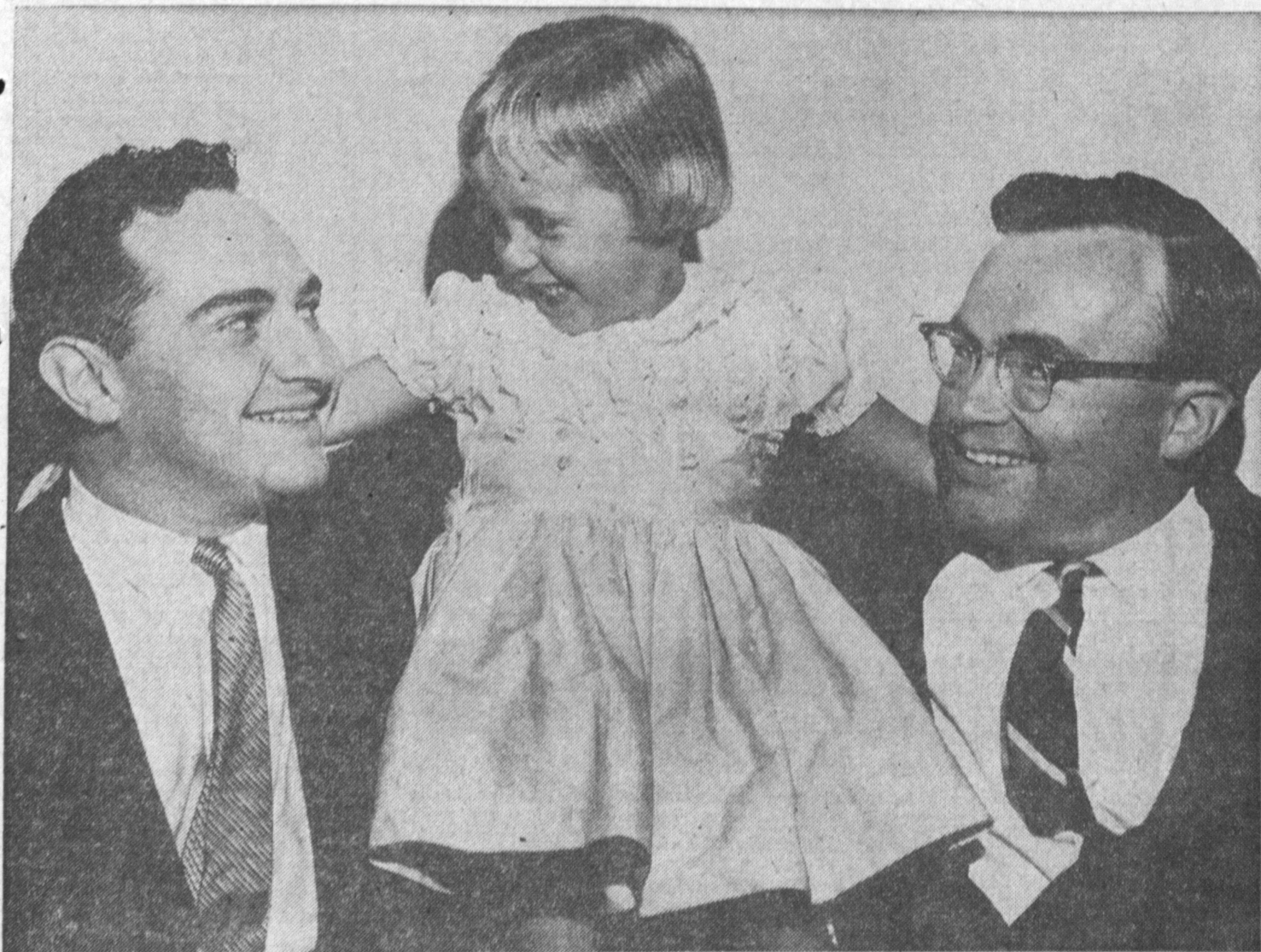
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**LIFE SAVERS**—Dr. Roy Halpern (left) and Dr. Arthur D. Weber again meet Debbie Hodges, brought back from the dead through their efforts. Debbie and parents were on hand last night when Medical Association honored pair for feat. *Press Photo*

## Thousands Ask End of Parking Bite

Thousands of persons already have signed petitions to abolish parking meters in Torrance, and the campaign is but a week old.

The plan to get rid of the meters was instituted by Sid Gans, owner of Gans TV, 1409 Cravens, with an informal committee of leading downtown businessmen. The merchants long have complained that the nuisance and expense of the meters are driving patrons out of the downtown area.

Essence of the proposal is to retain the two-hour limit but put an end to the nickel-an-hour tax on parking.

Although the petitions are being filled rapidly downtown, Gans issued a call for more workers in residential areas. He asked that interested housewives who do their buying in the central area sign up to canvass their own districts.

Petitions to free shoppers from the meter burden await signers in major business enterprises.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Isen noted that, on strength of a report by Police Lt. Don Nash, some meters take in as little as one cent a day.

## Hilarious Play Scheduled by Torrance High

"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" is the name of the play selected by the Senior Class of Torrance High School to be presented on Friday and Saturday in the school auditorium at 8 p.m.

This three-act comedy is an adaptation of the book, "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," by Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough. The play is about Cornelia's and Emily's trip to Europe in the early '20s when both girls were in their late teens. Sparkling and exuberant escapades of these two delightful girls will make this play very enjoyable.

Carol Mathlin portrays Cornelia, and Nancy Osborne portrays Emily.

Other students in the cast are Barbara Adams, Gary Blakley, Phil Cosby, Vicki Hippik, Linda Hofer, Carol Johnson, Brooke Linderman, Vi Lucero, Bill Miller, Jim Pritchard, Noel Shire, Jim White, Gary Van De Wetering, and Carol Vorhis.

## Doctors Honored for Bringing Debbie Hodges Back to Life

Recognition was scheduled to be paid to Dr. Arthur O. Weber and Dr. Roy Halpern by more than 100 doctors and guests at the annual banquet of the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association at the Thunderbird International Hotel, El Segundo, last night.

Dr. Weber is the Torrance surgeon who opened the chest of four-year-old Debbie Hodges and restored her to life in his office recently.

When Dr. Weber first saw the child, there was no heart beat, and her skin was blue. She had been electrocuted by a vacuum cleaner while standing on a damp mop. The child was rigid and appeared to be dead. The fast action of the surgeon is credited with saving Debbie's life.

Dr. Halpern, a pediatrician, quickly passed a tube down the girl's throat and kept up mouth-to-mouth breathing while Dr. Weber massaged her heart.

In praising these two member physicians, Dr. William C. Casey, spokesman for the medical group, said, "The Southwest District wishes to salute Dr. Weber and Dr. Halpern for their forthright action, courage, and boldness in saving the life of little Debbie Hodges a few weeks ago. We commend them most highly on their medical skill and their prompt action, which produced a most happy result."

Debbie gladly gave up a few hours of sleep to be with the doctors for the tribute. The most grateful of all present were Debbie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Hodges of 21926 Ocean Ave.

"Really, we don't feel there is any personal credit due," said Dr. Weber. "Dr. Halpern and

I just happened to be at the right place at the right time. It was a real team effort. We received valuable help from a number of other doctors both in the office and in the hospital."

Dr. Halpern added, "Seeing Debbie well again is our big reward."

Except for the healed chest scar, Debbie shows no effects from her life-saving experience. American Medical Association representatives are eager to present Debbie at its next convention. According to Dr. Claud E. Beck, pioneer heart surgeon, this is the first known instance that a chest has been opened and heart massage done successfully outside a hospital.

Installed at the banquet as president of the Southwest Branch of LACMA was Dr. George C. Andersen of Hermosa Beach. Dr. Edward W. Knutson of Torrance is the new vice president, and Dr. Alonzo Monk of Redondo Beach is secretary-treasurer. Drs. Howard A. Wood and Casey, both of Torrance, will represent the district on the Council of the Los Angeles County Medical Association for 1960.

Dr. Wood was master of ceremonies. He introduced Dr. Gerald M. Eastham of Torrance, who spoke on "Our Medical Association—Past, Present, and Future."

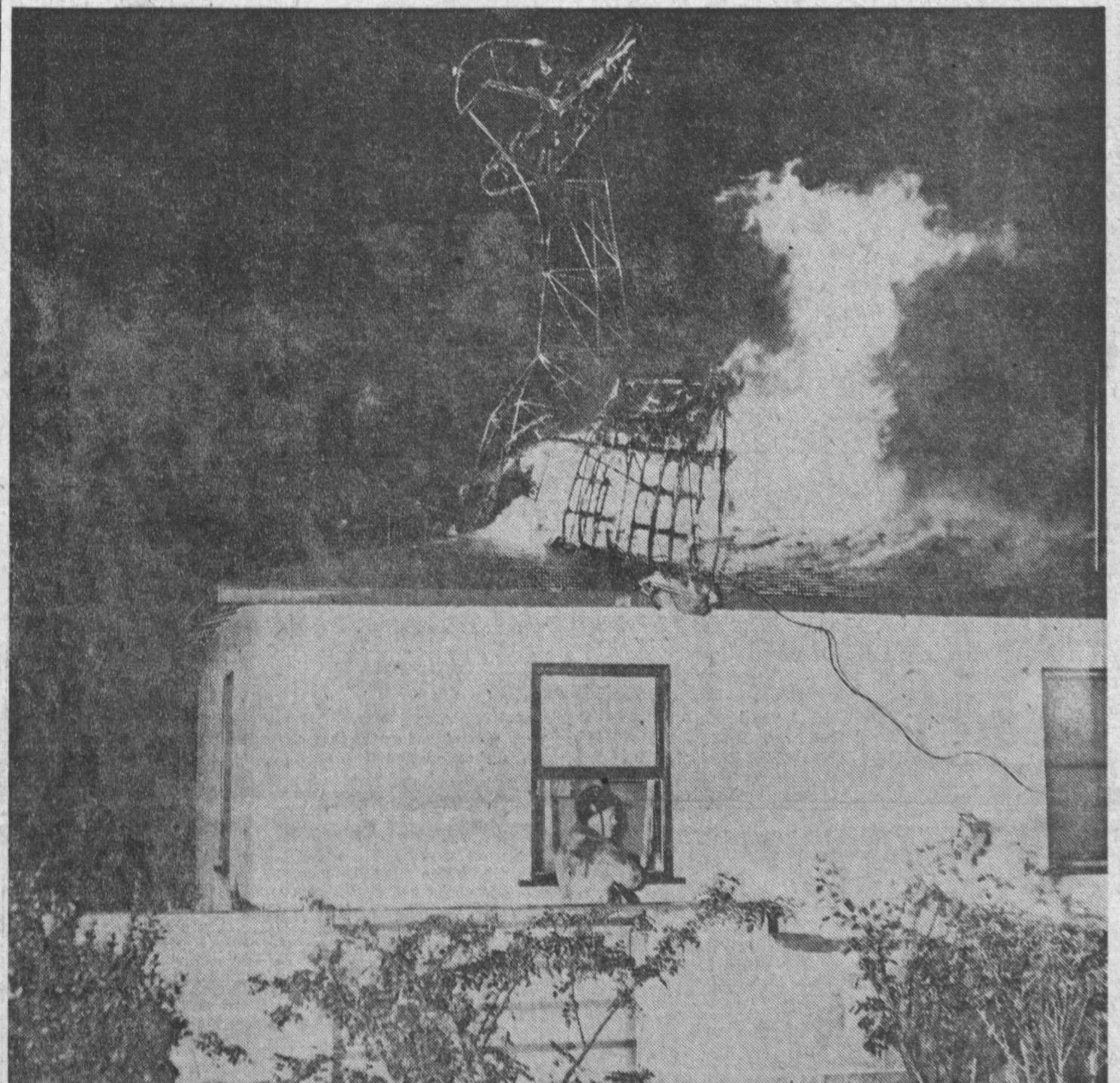
A special plaque was given to retiring president Dr. Arthur J. Olson of Redondo Beach, who is the only president to serve two consecutive years. Other doctors who received awards for outstanding service during the year included Dr. John L. Bourne of Torrance, Dr. Jack A. Fisher of Redondo Beach, and Drs. Knutson. *(Continued on page B-4)*



**YOUNG AND GAY**—Carol Mathline, Jim Pritchard and Nancy Osborn play principal parts in Torrance High School senior play "Our Hearts were Young and Gay."

## SECOND PILOT MISSING

# Torrance Flyer in Fiery Death



**DEATH IN FLAMES**—Site of blazing crash that took the life of a Torrance pilot Friday night. Man believed to be companion still was being sought yesterday, but late reports indicated lost flier took separate trip. *(Compton Police Photo).*

## Plane Burns House in Compton

### Long Hunt for Second Victim Called Off

A plane crash that killed a Torrance pilot late Friday night left police and airport officials with their darkest mystery yesterday: Where is the pilot who was believed to be with the dead aviator?

The plane set fire to a house in Compton.

Identity of the pilot has been established as Norman Thomas, flight instructor for Air Credit Sales at Torrance Airport, although the body was burned beyond recognition.

Keys found on his person opened Thomas's car and the Air Credit office, it was determined by Zeke Alter, reserve policeman on guard at the airport. The keys were taken to him by members of the sheriff's aero squadron.

Thomas's address is 5132 Zakon Rd.

With him was believed to be Gerald D. Sjostrand, formerly of 22626 Draille. It was discovered he and his family had moved to Redondo Beach, where neighbors said they had been away since before Thanksgiving.

Compounding the confusion was the fact that Sjostrand's car was parked next to the Thomas car at Air Credit. Thomas had instructed him in night flying, it was believed.

Also, witnesses said that what appeared to be an occupant plunged from the plane just before it crashed.

However, Sjostrand has a private license, and it seemed unlikely he would have been taking night flying Friday. Neighbors and investigators were inclined *(Continued on Page B-4)*



**CHRISTMAS CLASS**—Ericka Muhl, head of Torrance Recreation Department arts and crafts center at Sea-Aire Park, shows some

of practical and decorative items to be made by members of special Christmas classes Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10 at 1 and 7 p.m.